B. Amendments to the Specification.

Please replace paragraph 3 with the following amended paragraph:

[0003] 2. ~~Information Disclosure Statement~~ Description of Related Art

Please replace paragraph 17 with the following amended paragraph:

[0017] In one preferred embodiment, the luggage device is engineered ~~wherein~~ such that the bottom of the main housing has a plurality of bottom pods, i.e., feet, rests, wheels or other stand-on protrusions, and there ~~is~~ are a plurality of the base members of the load determination means, and at least one base member is connected to each of the plurality of bottom pods. For example, in one preferred arrangement consistent with many luggage items, ~~is wherein~~ the main housing has a generally rectangular bottom with four corners, and there are four bottom pods connected to the bottom, one of each of the four pods being located proximate each of the four corners, and there are a plurality of the base members of the load determination means and at least one base member is connected to each of the four bottom pods.

Please replace paragraph 29 with the following amended paragraph:

[0029] FIG. 2 shows an oblique view of ~~a~~ the present invention luggage device;

Please replace paragraph 36 with the following amended paragraph:

[0036] The present invention luggage device enables a user, a pilot or airline employee, a boater, a bus employee, a home-land security officer, or other person to instantly determine the weight of an item of luggage. This information may be available by either setting the luggage device down, as in embodiments wherein the load

determining feature is in the base or bottom, or by picking up the luggage device, as in embodiments wherein the load determining feature is connected to a handle.

Please replace paragraph 37 with the following amended paragraph:

[0037] The present invention luggage device enables ~~flying~~ airline patrons to determine whether or not their luggage exceeds the limits for a particular travel plan, ~~the~~ airline personnel to confirm luggage weight, and small craft operators who may not have scales immediately available, to immediately determine load factors and enable weight and balance determinations.

Please replace paragraph 38 with the following amended paragraph:

[0038] The present invention luggage device also enables an owner to check weight before leaving home and to recheck weight at any time thereafter. For example, if luggage leaves an owner's side, as for loading or unloading, hotel check in or check out, or otherwise, an increase in weight could instantly signal that drugs or a bomb or stolen goods have been hidden in that luggage. Likewise, a weight decrease could mean that a jewelry box, valuable equipment, laptop computer, camera, etc. was just stolen. Such quick response time afforded by the present invention could therefore pinpoint a crime, help catch a thief or even prevent a disaster or terrorist attack.

Please replace paragraph 40 with the following amended paragraph:

[0040] FIG. 1 illustrates a schematic diagram of one type of present invention luggage device 2. The device 2 includes a processor 4 in a main housing (discussed below), that is integrally connected to one or more load determination mechanisms contained in one or more base members, namely, here, base members 6, 8, 10, and 12. These base members could extend downwardly from a suitcase, briefcase, computer case with a hard bottom, or similar luggage, and be connected to pods (feet, rests,

wheels, or other luggage and case base elements), that rest on the floor when such luggage is set down. They include or are directly connected to load determination mechanisms 18, which feed back to processor 4.

Please replace paragraph 41 with the following amended paragraph:

[0041] The processor 4 includes sufficient capabilities to receive, store, optionally transmit, and, cause the display of weight, either as total weight or net content weight, or both. The processor is powered by power source 14, and is connected to display 16. Display 16 could be a mechanical display, an analog display or a digital display. However, it is preferably a screen display, such as LCD or plasma screen display, or any other available display.

Please replace paragraph 42 with the following amended paragraph:

[0042] The processor 4 is also optionally connected to options 20. These include on/off switch, lock, code memory, comparisons, history, alarm, programming features, a downloading capability, such as a port or wireless transmission, or both. The on/off switch is preferred, but the device could be set up to automatically operate for a limited time period, e.g., one minute, and then shut off each time after it is activated (set down). The lock could be mechanical or digital and could require unique entry identifiers, such as a series of inputted characters, a fingerprint, voice recognition or similar security mechanism. The codes could be to access different types of information in memory or to set an alarm ~~of~~ or input a weight limit. The memory could store one or more types of information, such as absolute weights, tare weight, dates of weights, limits, history, etc. The processor 4 could receive, store, compare, subtract, add, and otherwise usefully process the data. The processor 4 could include programming to make adjustments, or to change some features. These might be English to metric weight, history storage time range, code or combination lock changes, or some other feature change. Input means

22 might be a keypad, touchpad or keyboard, a ball, a voice recognition/voice activated/voice operated input system or otherwise. The input means could be used for start/reset/alarm limit or other input or programming purposes.

Please replace paragraph 43 with the following amended paragraph:

[0043] FIG. 2 shows an oblique view of a present invention luggage device 1. Luggage device 1 includes a top 3, a bottom 5, a front 7, a back 9, a left side 11, and a right side 13, as well as a handle 21. Device 1 could be round, oval irregular, square, or any other shape, and sides, front, back, top and bottom as used herein are used for orientation rather than structural limitations. There are four rests or pods on bottom 5, and pods 15, 17 and 19 are shown, with pod 23 hidden, but shown in FIG. 5. Both FIG. 1 and FIG. 5 are taken collectively, and identical parts are identically numbered. Each of the pods 15, 17, 19, and 23 ~~are~~ is directly connected to a base member, such as a rod or bar or other mechanical support structure that is affixed to a load determining mechanism, such as a spring scale, a strain gauge, a load cell, or any other weighing means, that will activate and will give true weight or a true weight component for multiple pods, as here, when the device 1 is set down in a normal (upright) position on a flat surface such as a floor. Thus, there is a first position wherein the base members are not in contact with a supporting surface (via the pods), and a true weight or even a weight ~~can~~ cannot be ascertained, and there is a second position wherein the device is resting on a floor and there is a weight force ~~(gravity~~ on the luggage device and its contents~~)~~ that will allow the load determining means to give true weight data to a display, e.g., mechanically, or preferably via a processor (discussed above and below).

Please replace paragraph 44 with the following amended paragraph:

[0044] FIG. 3 shows the FIG. 2 device 1 in a partial cut front open view of the pod 17 with identical parts identically numbered. It includes a weighing mechanism, i.e.,

spring scale load determination means 43 and processor component 41. Processor component 41 is wired via wire 45 to other components connected to their base members 39, and one of these processor components collects, stores and adds the values, and effects a display thereof at display 31 (FIG. 1). (Some or all components could alternatively be connected wirelessly.) However, in FIG. 3, with the luggage device 1 in the air there is no weight indicated. In FIG. 4 the same view is illustrated but with pod 17 on floor 25, under force, compressing spring scale load determination means 43 and, thus, in a weighing position.

Please replace paragraph 45 with the following amended paragraph:

[0045] FIG. 6 shows a front view and FIG. 7 shows a bottom view of another present invention embodiment luggage device 51. Both Figures are taken together. This carrier ~~is~~has a ~~global~~globular shape, and has a front 53, a top 55, a bottom 57, a left side 59, and a right side 61, as well as a name tag 63. Bottom 57 is round and rests on a single round base plate 71. It is connected to a load cell that determines weight when the device 51 is set down on a flat surface, such as surface 69 of FIG. 6. The internal mechanism is not shown in detail, as load cells are well known and may be connected to the base plate (pod) 71 so as display gross or net weight via display screen 63. An internal processor, similar to those previously described herein is contained within the luggage (main housing) and performs any or all of the heretofore described functions.

Please replace paragraph 46 with the following amended paragraph:

[0046] FIG. 8 illustrates a schematic diagram of another type of present invention luggage device 81. The device 81 includes a processor 82 in a main housing (discussed below), that is connected to one or more load determination mechanisms contained in one or more base members, namely, here, two base members 84~~,~~ and 86. These base members 84 and 86 are each connected to handle 88 and could extend upwardly from

a suitcase, valise, briefcase, computer case with a hard or soft bottom, or similar luggage. They include or are connected to load determinations means 96 and 98, so that when the luggage device is picked up off a resting surface, the system is capable of weighing the device.

Please replace paragraph 48 with the following amended paragraph:

[0048] The processor 82 is also optionally connected to options 94. These may be any already described above regarding earlier Figures, and include on/off switch, lock, code memory, comparisons, history, alarm, programming features, a downloading capability, such as a port or wireless transmission, or both. The processor 82 could receive, store, compare, subtract, add, and otherwise usefully process the data. The processor 82 could ~~82~~ include programming to make adjustments, or to change some features, also as described above. Input means 78 might be a keypad, touchpad, or keyboard, a ball, a voice recognition/voice activated/voice operated input system or otherwise. The input means could be used for start/reset/alarm limit or other input or programming purposes.

Please replace paragraph 49 with the following amended paragraph:

[0049] FIG. 9 shows an oblique view of another present invention luggage device 101. Luggage device 101 includes a top 107, a bottom 105, a front 103, a back (not shown), a left side 109, and a right side 111, as well as a handle 121. Device 101, like device 1 above in the previous Figures, could be round, oval irregular, square, or any other shape, and sides, front, back, top and bottom as used herein are used for orientation rather than structural limitations. Handle 121 is not connected to the main housing shown generally as housing 120, but is connected to base members 115 and 117, which contain load determination means (load cells) connected to a processor, which is also connected to a power source and to display screen 119. Thus, each of the

base members are mechanical support structures that are affixed to or include a load determining mechanism, such as a spring scale, a strain gauge, a load cell, or any other weighing means, that will activate and will give true weight or a true weight component for multiple base members, as here, when the device 101 is picked up by the handle from a set down in position. Thus, there is a first position wherein the base members are not ~~under the force of gravity~~being used to support the luggage device, such as when the device has been set down on a floor, and there is a second position wherein the device is picked up off a floor and is being held by the handle, ~~and~~ wherein there is a weight force ~~(gravity~~ on the luggage device and its contents~~)~~ that will allow the load determining means to give true weight data to a display, e.g., mechanically, or preferably via the processor shown in this embodiment. FIG. 10 shows a partial cut open front view of the handle and weighing mechanism with no weight (on the floor) ~~illustrating~~ of the present invention device 101 shown in FIG. 9. Identical parts are identically numbered. Base members 115 and 117 pull on load determination means 131 and 133 when the device is lifted by handle 121. This sends signals to microprocessor 130, which includes a power source and a microchip with any of the optional features described above. It is connected to display screen 119, which includes a touch key pad for user input, as well as display features for weight and other output.

Please delete paragraph 50.

[0050] ~~FIG. 10 shows the FIG. 9 present invention device in a partial cut front open view of the handle and weighing mechanism with no weight (on the floor), and FIG. 10 illustrates the same view but with the handle lifted so that the luggage device is off the floor, under force and in a weighing position.~~